

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01734 041923Z

ACTION AF-10

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R 041104Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0329

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, BC, NI

SUBJECT: DAILY NEWS REPORT ON VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE'S TRIP TO
NIGERIA

1. AUGUST 3 DAILY NEWS CARRIES FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ON VICE PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING Q.K.J. MASIRE'S TRIP TO NIGERIA. MASIRE REPORTEDLY PRESENTED FARAH REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTLINED BOTSWANA'S PRIORITIES AMONG PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE REPORT TO NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE LIEUTENANT GENERAL OBASANJO AND "VARIOUS CABINET MINISTERS". ARTICLE CHARACTERIZED RESPONSE TO MASIRE'S PRESENTATION AS "VERY SATISFACTORY". NIGERIANS REPORTEDLY MADE NO COMMITMENT TO ANY PARTICULAR PROJECTS OR AMOUNT OF AID, ALTHOUGH THEY "PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE VARIOUS PROJECTS AND SEE HOW BEST THEY CAN HELP BOTSWANA".

2. ARTICLE QUOTED MASIRE STATEMENT THAT FARAH REPORT HAS BEEN "WELL RECEIVED" BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THAT "MANY COUNTRIES HAVE PROMISED TO DO SOMETHING". HOWEVER,
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VICE PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY POINTED OUT THAT ADEQUACY OF INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE WILL BE ULTIMATELY JUDGED BY QUANTITY OF AID ACTUALLY RECEIVED. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, MASIRE MAY UNDERTAKE ANOTHER ROUND OF VISITS TO POTENTIAL DONOR COUNTRIES INCLUDING NIGERIA.

3. COMMENT: GENERALLY UPBEAT TONE OF DAILY NEWS ARTICLE

PROBABLY REFLECTS GOB'S INITIAL SATISFACTION WITH NIGERIAN RESPONSE TO MASIRE'S PRESENTATION. HOWEVER, ARTICLE POINTS OUT THAT POTENTIAL DONORS, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING NIGERIA, WILL HAVE TO BACK SYMPATHETIC RESPONSES WITH TANGIBLE AID IF OBJECTIVES OF FARAH REPORT ARE TO BE MET. GOB EFFORTS TO NAIL DOWN SPECIFIC AID COMMITMENTS KEYED TO FARAH REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE AND MAY WELL INVOLVE MORE HIGH-LEVEL VISITS TO POTENTIAL DONOR COUNTRIES. EMBASSY LAGOS COMMENTS ON NIGERIAN RESPONSE TO MASIRE'S VISIT AND PROSPECTS FOR TANGIBLE NIGERIAN AID COMMITMENT TO BOTSWANA WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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